

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 080755Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6326

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: SREF CH TW HK

SUBJECT: FEI I-MIN ON THE EX-KMT POW'S

REF: HONG KONG 6856

1. THE PRC OWNED TA KUNG PAO ON AUGUST 8 FRONT-PAGE A LENGTHLY, SIGNED ARTICLE BY ITS PUBLISHER AND MPC PRESIDIUM MEMBER, FEI I-MIN, DENOUNCING TAIWAN'S HANDLING OF THE CASES OF THE TEN RECENTLY AMNESTIED EX-"KMT WAR CRIMINALS" WHO HAVE SOUGHT IN VAIN TO ENTER TAIWAN FROM HONG KONG.

2. ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOS OF HIS MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE FIRST GROUP OF KMT POW'S AMNESTIED IN 1959 AND MEMBERS OF THE LATEST GROUP TO BE AMNESTIED, FEI NOTES THAT BOTH HIS "OLD FRIENDS" WHO WERE AMNESTIED IN 1959 AND THE

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RECENT GROUP OF RELEASES HAVE CRITICIZED THE CHAING

CLIQUE AS BEING RUTHLESS AND UNTRUSTWORTHY. CHAING CHING-KUO AND YEN CHIA-KAN ARE SINGLED OUT BY NAME BUT CHARGED WITH DIFFERENT OFFENSES. CHIANG AND HIS CLOSE ADVISORS ARE DENOUNCED FOR THEIR HANDLING OF THE OLD SOLDIERS WHILE YEN IS CHARGED WITH "TALKING NONSENSE" FOR SUGGESTING THAT THE MEN ARE TOOLS AND PART OF CHINA'S UNITED FRONT PLOT.

3. FEI CONTRASTS THE UNFORTUNATE PLIGHT OF THE EX-POW'S IN HONG KONG AND THOSE COMPATRIOTS IN TAWIAN SUBJECT TO THE EXPLORATION OF THE CHAING REGIME WITH THE SITUATION AND LIFE OF THE EX-"KMT WAR CRIMINALS" AND PEOPLE WHO RESIDE IN CHINA. HE CONCLUDES BY REITERATING THE FAMILIAR PRC LINE THAT IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO LOVE THE COUNTRY AND THAT THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO ITS UNIFICATION WILL BE WELCOME BY THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

4. THE TIMING AND INTENT OF THIS, THE FIRST SIGNED ARTICLE BY FEI TO APPEAR IN THE PRC MOUNTPIECE IN RECENT MONTHS, IS SIGNIFICANT SINCE THE REMAINING OLD SOLDIERS ARE ONCE AGAIN APPLYING FOR AN EXTENSION OF STAY IN HONG KONG. ONE OF THE REMAINING SEVEN IS EXPECTED TO IMMIGRATE TO THE US, BUT THE FATE OF THE OTHER SIX REMAINS UNCLEAR.

5. ALTHOUGH FEI HAS REITERATED THE PRC'S PUBLIC POSITION THAT CHINA WOULD ALWAYS WELCOME THE MEN BACK, THE SIX HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRC WOULD PREFER THAT THEY GO ELSEWHERE, AND INDEED HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO DEFRAY THEIR TRAVEL EXPENSES. PEKING HAS EXTRACTED ITS PROPAGANDA VICTORIES OVER TAIWAN, AND THE HKG HAS MADE KNOWN ITS INTEREST IN SEEING AN END TO THE PROPAGANDA BATTLE BEING PLAYED OUT IN THE COLONY. THUS, THIS MESSAGE BY ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT OF THE PRC REPS HERE MAY BE A FINAL EFFORT TO STOKE THE FLAMES OF PUBLIC INTEREST WHICH HAVE ALL BUT PETERED OUT. BUT THE OLD SOLDIERS HERE IN HONG KONG WILL ALSO FIND THAT THIS STANDARD PROPAGANDA MESSAGE CONTAINS A SUBTLE REMAINDER THAT HONG KONG SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY THEIR TEMPORARY PLACE OF ABODE.

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